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or minimum of alcoholism does not correspond once with the maximum or minimum of crime and suicide. Alcoholic intoxication makes the sentiments of man neither worse nor better; but it lets them loose, it accents them, it reveals them in their naked truth. Well established cases of insane or criminal descendents through alcoholism do not authorize one to generalize this fact. There is wanting between alcoholism, crime and suicide constancy, regularity, and universality of relation, of coincidence and of succession; therefore the relation of cause and effect cannot be established between them, according to the laws of statistics.

Among the more authoritative writers, the opinion prevails, that alcoholic beverages, which are concentrated or of bad quality, injure the physical and moral health; but that the consumption of wine, (the most innocent of alcoholic beverages), day by day and year by year, cannot be shown to be a true and efficient cause of crime. The conditions that favor the increase of alcoholism are physical, economical and psycho-social. Climate is the most important cause of all; is constant and independent of human action.

All physiologists recognize that alcohol increases the circulation, excites the intellectual faculties, and aids and stimulates the action of the digestive organs, and that it produces these beneficial effects in the shortest time, and with the least cost. An inquiry into the conditions that favor or determine alcoholism admits but of one conclusion: that in its morbid conditions, it is a product of the social organization. When this organization is opportune and conformable to equity, it is more beneficial than the influence of climate. The principal remedy for drunkenness is of an economical and social order. We must interest the laborer in organizing his work better; we must favor for each family the possession, first of moveables, and then of a habitation; we must multiply indefinitely artistic distractions and encourage intellectual recreations.

On the whole, this author represents the opinion of Europe as to alcoholism. It seems to us, however, that the question may be somewhat different in America. For one of the most apparent and real differences is the fastness of growth, which has become rooted in the American nature. Thus as a nation we walk, run, travel, eat and drink faster than the Europeans. This drinking fast and often, without eating, and often when not thirsty, together with the unfortunate habit of treating, are conditions in our social organism, which make so much more drunkenness visible. It is also true that a majority of our drunkards are not Americans.

Experiments as to the action of Alcohol on the Brain. J. J. RIDGE. Physician to the London Temperance Hospital. Quarterly Journal of Inebriety, Jan., 1890.

A narcotic cannot become general in use without injuring the race. Any one of the narcotics habitually used so alters the nervous system as to cause uneasy sensations when abstained from. Alcohol is no exception to this rule. Insurance societies are proving what the influence of alcohol on the race is. As to the individual, it has been shown in a former paper that the sense of sight, common sensations and the muscular sense are blunted by alcohol in doses from two to four drachms. Dr. Hughlings Jackson agrees that those powers of mind developed last are the least stable and the first to be paralyzed by alcohol. Dr. Kraepelin in a series of experiments has shown that alcohol prolongs the simple reaction time, and the time for discrimination and decision. While then, the influence of alcohol upon the psychical processes makes them slower, the individual believes them to be much quicker. This illusion shows most rationally the necessity for abstinence. Alcohol,

then, injures the capacity for self-control or temperance, which cannot be as great or complete with alcohol as without it.

El Craneo y la Locura. DR. W. RODRIGUEZ. Buenos-Ayres, 1888.

The purpose of the book is to study the relations between the form of the cranium and mental diseases. The results are from the study of 532 cases. These might be questioned, since an apparatus called the conformitor (used by hatters), was employed in obtaining the anterior-posterior and bilateral diameters with the aid of Broca's compass. The form of the cranium is an important element in the diagnosis of insanity. The majority of cases show a striking asymmetry; there is a marked predominance in the lateral posterior regions. In the maniacs the anterior-posterior diameter is greater than the average. In cases of dementia, there is a twisting movement of the head with an exaggerated development of the parietal eminences. There is always a predominance of the frontal lobes in the general paralytics. In idiots and cretins the lines which form the contour of the head are very irregular; there is also an exaggerated development of the occipital protuberance. The author is consulting physician and director of the Argentine Medical Society for nervous diseases. It is interesting to hear what an authority from South America says.

La Contagion du Meurtre, étude anthropologique criminelle. Le Dr. PAUL AUBRY. Paris, 1888. pp. 184.

The phenomenon of morbid psychology, which the author considers, is a combination of suggestion, imitation, heredity and contagion. Contagion may arise from family influence, as in the case of the child raised in crime, who sees his parents profit from it; or it may come from contact with prisoners. If the child goes to the house of correction, the case is no better, as contagion has a hold on him. A good man rarely comes from a criminal family, but a bad man frequently comes from a good family. Reformation from prison life is a myth. Lacenaire, a most celebrated criminal, himself says: when a young man enters prison and hears of the grand exploits of the others, he regrets that he had not been a greater criminal himself. Contagion comes from public executions; those who quit the prison assemble at public executions to see the blood, which for them has special attraction. Out of 177 persons condemned to death only three had not been present at other executions. The indirect contagion of the press is an established fact. In 1885, in Geneva, Switzerland, a woman killed her four children, then tried to commit suicide; in her autobiography were these words, "As a woman did it, which was in the newspaper." Tropicman, a celebrated criminal, confessed that the cause of his demoralization, was the reading of novels by which he developed a strong passion for heroes of the prison. If such reading influences a sound mind, its effect on the weak minded and insane is still worse. The reading of the details of crime first produces repulsion, then indifference; soon crime is looked upon with complacency, and after this, overt acts may follow with less difficulty.

There is the contagion to vitriolize or to use the revolver. A woman wishes simply to disfigure some enemy; she has read in the paper how another woman accomplished this and was acquitted with the congratulations of the jury and with public applause, how everyone talked about her, how her picture was in the paper; she finds vitriolizing convenient, and imitates her model. Those who use the pistol are not so contemptible as the vitriolizers, though the results may be more fatal. Poisoning was once the royal and aristocratic mode of disposing of persons, but owing to the advancement of chemical science, it is now comparatively infrequent, and if resorted to, it is generally by the